

WALTHAM HOLY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman,
Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report and that of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1944 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

The Ministry of Health directs that the Report shall again be an interim one but that at same time all records and statistics be carefully preserved for future reference.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	10,959
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid-year 1944...	...	...	...	6,820
Number of inhabited houses end of 1944...	...	...	...	2,010
Rateable value	...	...	...	£56,665
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£221

Vital Statistics.

		Male	Female	Total
Live births	{ Legitimate	73	51	124
	{ Illegitimate	4	3	7

				131

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 19.2

		Male	Female	Total
Still births	{ Legitimate	4	—	4
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—

				4

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... 29.6

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths	...	49	39	88

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 12.9

Death rate of infants under 1 year—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	38
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	32
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	142

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	1
Deaths from road traffic ...	...	1
Deaths from other violent causes ...	...	2
Maternal deaths ...	...	0

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1944.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Waltham Holy Cross
Rates per 1,000 Civilian population:—				
Live Births ...	17.6	20.9	15.0	19.2
Still Births ...	0.50	0.61	0.42	0.58
DEATHS:—				
All Causes ...	11.6	12.4	15.7	12.9
Typhoid and Para- typhoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough ...	0.03	0.02	0.04	—
Diphtheria ...	0.02	0.03	0.01	—
Influenza ...	0.12	0.11	0.08	—
Smallpox ...	0.00	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.01	0.01	0.00	—

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—

Deaths under 1 year of age ...	46	44	61	38
Deaths from Diar- rhoea and enter- itis under 2 years of age ...	4.8	4.4	10.1	0.14

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in Area.

(a) Laboratory Service.

E.M.S. Laboratory at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.

(b) Ambulance Service.

No change. The Volunteer Car Pool played a valuable part in conveying patients to hospitals, clinics, etc.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

No change.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following Clinics are held at the County Council's Combined Treatment Centre, The Cedars, Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey:—

Child Welfare Centre—Friday afternoon.

Minor Ailments Clinic, including Diphtheria
Immunisation—first and third Wednesdays,
2.30 p.m.

Dental and Eye Clinics—by arrangement.

Ante-natal Clinic—first Thursday in month.

The War-time Day Nursery for 40 children, established in 1933, was extensively used by mothers engaged on war work. The standard of health of the children was excellent and there were no epidemics of infectious disease in the Nursery.

(e) Hospitals.

No change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water. No change.
- (ii) Drainage and Sewerage. No change.
2. (i) Closet Accommodation. No change.
- (ii) Public Cleansing. No change.
- (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area :—

NUISANCE INSPECTION :

No. of inspections made in 1944	...	540
No. of nuisances outstanding from 1943		Nil
No. of nuisances abated during 1944	...	392
No. of summonses or other legal action		Nil
No. of statutory notices	... ..	4

DISINFECTION :

No. of visits re cleansing and disinfection after infectious disease	...	15
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PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS :

No. of licences granted	19
No. of inspections	29
Carbide of Calcium Licences	...	Nil
Cellulose Licences	... ..	1

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 :

The Sanitary Inspector is the Rodent Officer for the Authority under the Act. One hundred and twenty-four inspections were made during the year. Nineteen premises were found to be infested by rats. All complaints of infestation were investigated and advice given as to the best methods of combating the nuisance under varying conditions.

Work under the Infestation Order, 1943, was effected by three Wardens who had been trained in the methods of destruction favoured by the Ministry of Food. Success was reported in each case. The number of complaints has fallen considerably during the year. In a number of cases, the dispensing of Rat Biscuits (in accordance with the Council's policy) has been successful in ridding premises of rats.

Agricultural premises are dealt with by the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

(iv) Shops Acts, 1934.

All premises under this heading in the Order were visited and found to comply with the provisions of the above Act. One hundred and ten visits were made.

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT.

No. of persons registered as manufacturers			
and vendors	...	...	... 10
No. of persons registered as vendors			... 19
No. of inspections	...	...	... Nil

(v) Camping Sites.

No. of sites used for camping in 1944	...	Nil
No. of sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority	...	16
No. of campers during 1944	...	Nil

The sites are provided with separate privy accommodation for the sexes, an adequate supply of water, in the majority of cases from the mains, and also with sufficient covered refuse receptacles.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received during the year.

(vii) Swimming Bath.

No change.

SECTION D.

Housing.

(a)	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year	480
(b)	Works of repair were effected at the follow-	
	ing number of houses	52
(c)	Statutory Notices	2

The effective application of the Housing Act is not possible during the present emergency, the difficulty of obtaining the necessary materials and labour being the chief cause. However, every effort has been made to ensure that all premises are kept in a reasonable state of repair. During the year frequent inspections were made of Council Estates. It is pleasing to report that despite the difficult times experienced during 1944, the high standard of cleanliness mentioned in previous reports has been maintained in the Council's Estates.

SECTION E.

Inspection of Food.

Milk Supply.

All premises where milk is produced or retailed are visited regularly, and strict supervision is exercised to ensure the clean production and handling of milk.

No. of Cowkeepers on the register	...	18
No. of Retailers who are also producers		8
No. of Retailers only	... ..	7
No. of inspections	... ..	195
Approximate number of milch cows	...	725

Accredited Milk is produced at nine farms.

Tuberculin Tested Milk is produced at two farms.

Supplementary Licences for the sale of milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-38, were granted as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	4
Pasteurised Milk	... ..	4
Accredited Milk ...	... ..	1

Meat and other Foods.

A cattle market and a general market are held at Waltham Abbey on Tuesday of each week, where the sale of food is supervised. Eighty-five inspections were made during the year.

The sanitary conditions of all premises where food is produced, stored, or exposed for sale are satisfactory.

The practice of washing and disinfecting all vehicles conveying animals to and from the cattle market was continued throughout 1944.

All slaughtering is effected at the Ministry of
 Food Depot, Sewardstone Street, Waltham Abbey.
 The following animals were inspected during the year:

895	Steers and Heifers
687	Cows
40	Bulls
1,665	Sheep and Lambs
999	Pigs
691	Calves
<hr/>	
4,977	Total

The following were surrendered as being unfit
 for human consumption:—

68	Bovine	carcases complete
142	„	heads and tongues
102	„	sets of organs and offals
330	„	livers
297	„	lungs
20	„	hearts
21	„	skirts
2	„	tails
201	„	spleens
5	„	tops
38	„	forequarters
19	„	hindquarters
2	„	clod and sticking
1	Calves	carcase complete
2	„	heads
6	„	plucks
25	Pigs'	carcases complete
59	„	heads
132	„	plucks and fats
4	„	hindquarters
2	„	forequarters

6	Pigs'	legs
21	Sheeps'	carcases complete
39	"	plucks
20	"	heads

Total weight of meat surrendered—27 tons.

The policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of "weeding-out" all doubtful animals from dairy and farm stocks, undoubtedly contributes to the quantity of unfit meat surrendered. Dealers, too, who scour these farms for the purpose of buying in doubtful and casualty animals and send them to the slaughter-house, also assist in sending up the total weight of meat surrendered as unfit. The number of casualty animals was added to by enemy action. A quantity of the meat was obviously unfit for human consumption.

Taking a bovine carcase at 600 lbs.

„	a pig's	„	„	100 lbs.
„	a sheep's	„	„	50 lbs.
„	a calf's	„	„	50 lbs., the percen-

tage of meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption = 5.079%. This figure is an approximation only, the actual weight of condemned meat being compared with the estimated weight of meat killed. The figure is rather high.

Number of animals killed	...	4977
Number of animals surrendered as unfit	... ..	115
Bovine animals	... ..	4.19%
Sheep and lambs	... ..	1.26%
Pigs	... ..	2.5%

Inspections at the Cooked Meat Factory ... 55

Conditions prevailing at the Cooked Meat Factory are good.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are nine slaughtermen licensed under the Act.

Food and Drugs Act. 1938.

All premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for purposes of sale, were inspected during the year and satisfactory conditions were found to prevail in every instance.

The following articles of food were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

26	tins	Pilchards	3½ lbs.	Ground Ginger
6	„	Salmon	26	„ Prunes
1	„	Mackerell	112	„ Soya Flour
2	„	Herrings	10	„ National Butter
23	„	Chopped Meat	14	„ Cheese
19	„	Evaporated Milk	41	„ Dates
2	„	Skimmed Milk	58	„ Figs
3	„	Condensed Milk	59	„ Rice
6	„	Beans	2	„ Mustard
2	„	Peas	57 pkts.	Sponge Mixtures
7	„	Soups	8	„ Cream of Tartar
5	„	Plums	96	„ Pudding Mixture
8	„	Marmalade	10	„ Bisto
44	„	Jam	30 lbs.	Plain Flour
36 lbs.		Pork Sausage M't	2	„ Tomatoes
29¾	„	Bacon	74	„ Jam
135¾	„	Tea	29 bots.	Sauce
890	„	Cocoa	13	„ Meat Paste
1	„	Lemon Squash	5	„ Lemonade
40 lbs.		Sultanas	23 lbs.	Luncheon S'age
12	„	Peas	2	„ Sausages
49	„	Sugar	5	„ Pressed Pork
33	„	Macaroni	½	„ Beef Suet

168 pkts. Soups	25 pkts. Salt
3 „ Dried Eggs	2 „ Junket Powder
6 „ Shredded Wheat	72 lbs. Self-raising Flour
8 „ Porage Oats	5 „ Fruit Cake
28 lbs. Coarse Oatmeal	1 jar Beetox
40 „ Mexican Beans	1 „ Pickles
12 $\frac{3}{4}$ „ Biscuits	11 tins Sardines
25 pkts. Cereals	169 Pies
168 Eggs	108 Sausage Rolls

Enemy action was to some extent responsible for the increase in foods surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Twenty-two such samples were obtained during the year. As a matter of courtesy, firms are notified after a sample has been taken. Four samples were reported upon unfavourably.

The firms whose milk failed to attain the prescribed standard were contacted and I am pleased to report that subsequent samples proved favourable.

Factories Act, 1937.

All factories in the district were inspected regularly and satisfactory conditions were found to prevail on all premises.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

No noteworthy epidemic of infectious disease occurred during the year.

Diphtheria.

No case was notified during the year.

An immunisation clinic was held regularly at The Cedars, and particulars of the number of children treated in 1943 and 1944 are given below:—

	Under 5 years	5—15 years	Total
1943	79	67	146
1944	55	20	75
Estimated percentage of child population immunised:—	45%	64%	

It will be seen from the above figures that there was a drop in the number treated last year, but evacuation probably had some bearing on this.

Notifiable Diseases during the last five years.

Disease	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Scarlet Fever ...	5	41	49	18	5
Diphtheria ...	0	2	9	6	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia	1	8	1	4	7
Erysipelas ...	0	1	2	2	1
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ...	0	2	1	0	0
Measles ...	27	87	9	202	6
Whooping Cough ...	2	56	11	3	22
Cerebro-Spinal Men- ingitis ..	1	1	1	1	1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	3	2	1	1	6	1	—	—

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector for his help during the year, and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support.

Yours obediently,

L. S. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

